United Nations A/67/6 (Prog. 19)

General Assembly

Distr.: General
7 March 2012

Original: English

**Sixty-seventh session**
Item 131 of the preliminary list*
**Programme planning**

# Proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015

## Part two: biennial programme plan

## Programme 19
## Economic and social development in Western Asia

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## Overall orientation

19.1 The overall orientation of the programme is to foster comprehensive, equitable, integrated and sustainable development through effective economic and social cooperation in the region, and to maintain and strengthen economic relations between the member countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and with other countries, paying special consideration to least developed and conflict-stricken countries. ESCWA is responsible for the implementation of the programme.

19.2 Policy direction for the programme is provided in Economic and Social Council resolutions 1818 (LV) and 1985/69, establishing ESCWA and amending its terms of reference in order to underscore the social functions of the Commission. Further direction is provided in Economic and Social Council resolution 2005/50, in which ESCWA was requested to provide support to member countries in realizing the Millennium Development Goals, including by building capacities to formulate policies, monitor the progress made, measure its impact and prepare regional reports. In addition, in its resolution 269 (XXIV), the Commission requested its Executive Secretary to increase coherence and synergy with other regional United Nations organizations and, through the Commission's lead role in the Regional Coordination Group, foster partnerships and cooperation with those organizations.

19.3 As a regional arm of the United Nations, ESCWA will continue to foster economic integration at the subregional and regional levels, to promote the regional implementation of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and to support regional sustainable development by contributing to bridging economic, social and environmental policy gaps in its member countries. To achieve these objectives, ESCWA, through its convening power, will continue to advance multilateral dialogue, knowledge-sharing and networking at the regional level, and will work with the other regional commissions to promote intraregional and interregional cooperation, both between themselves and through collaboration with other subregional and regional organizations.

19.4 Since late 2010, the political landscape of the ESCWA region has experienced dramatic transformations. ESCWA will play a crucial and unique role in facilitating Governments' responses to meet the needs of their citizens by assisting member countries in addressing current policy weaknesses and enhancing their capacities effectively to address inequalities, and by using its convening power to provide a forum for member countries to discuss and share views on overall economic, social and sustainable development issues in the region.

19.5 It should be noted that the proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015 takes into consideration the impending deadline for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, and therefore efforts to support member countries to fast-track their commitments, in particular in line with the Global Action Plan adopted at the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals are emphasized throughout.

19.6 In the light of the challenges highlighted above and to capitalize on the opportunities presented by the movement towards a more expansive social and political horizon and exploit its capacity to the fullest, ESCWA engaged in an extensive process of consultation within and outside the Commission in relation to the proposed strategic framework to ensure that the needs of both member countries and the citizens of the region were captured.

19.7 The purpose of this exercise is to establish a medium-term plan (lasting between two and four years) up to the target date for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; to provide a framework for integrating the work of the Commission more effectively around three institutionally defined strategic pillars; to streamline planning processes and ensure greater coherence between the objectives and strategies on the one hand, and the activities, outputs and performance measures on the other; and to show how work under each subprogramme will affect the region's economic and social development challenges. This will increase the impact of ESCWA activities and facilitate evaluation and review with a view to measuring impact at the institutional level.

19.8 ESCWA will focus its work on inclusive and sustainable development in the region. The programme comprises seven interdependent subprogrammes that focus on three strategic pillars. These pillars serve as mainstays for work to be implemented in 12 priority areas, and are underpinned by three cross-cutting issues. Specifically, ESCWA is expanding its integrated planning approach so that several or all of its subprogrammes play a joint role in contributing to the impacts that it is to achieve, meaning that there will be no strategic pillars that are solely the purview of any single subprogramme. The proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015 thus not only reflects the activities of individual work units but also deals with those of ESCWA as a fully integrated body.

19.9 The three strategic pillars of ESCWA are: equitable growth and sustainability; regional integration; and good governance and resilience. Using these pillars, ESCWA is building fully integrated workplans within those priority areas in which more than one subprogramme is focused. Throughout its work, ESCWA will achieve more than simply implementing the programmed outputs. It will target predetermined and measurable outcomes under each priority area, paying particular attention to changes in practice by member countries in line with the objectives set under each subprogramme. To this end, ESCWA will shift the focus of its monitoring and implementation efforts from the individual outputs or workplans of each subprogramme to their overall contribution to the outcomes established for each priority area and strategic pillar.

19.10 Through its work on equitable growth and sustainability, ESCWA will increase member countries' capacity to formulate and/or implement policies that promote equitable, resilient and sustainable development as a critical tool for broadening opportunities for human development through equitable and sustainable growth. It will focus on three priority areas: equity, inclusion and employment; competitive knowledge-based economies; and sustainable natural resource management.

19.11 In its work on equity, inclusion and employment, ESCWA will focus on strengthening its member countries' capacity to develop and increase inclusive and equitable socio-economic conditions through integrated workplans under subprogrammes 1 to 3 on the development of rights-based social policies that promote social integration, social protection, the provision of adequate social services and employment generation; pro-poor growth policies focused on employment generation and inclusive and equitable financial policies; and increasing the productivity of small and medium-sized enterprises for employment creation and economic diversification.

19.12 In the area of competitive knowledge-based economies, ESCWA will build integrated workplans under subprogrammes 3 and 4 focusing on enhancing member countries' capacity to develop and make fully operational knowledge-based economies for sustainable economic growth and poverty alleviation through effective macroeconomic management, in addition to promoting economic diversification and competitiveness for decent job creation. In terms of sustainable natural resource management, ESCWA, under subprogramme 1, will enhance member countries' capacity to develop and implement national, subregional and regional policies, strategies and action plans for the sustainable management of water, energy and land in line with agreements reached at major United Nations conferences on sustainable development and provisions of relevant multilateral environmental agreements.

19.13 Under the regional integration strategic pillar, ESCWA will enhance regional prosperity through strengthened regional cooperation, focusing on five priority areas: knowledge and technology management; sustainable infrastructure; socio-economic policy coordination; food, water and energy security; and gender-sensitive policies and integration.

19.14 In terms of knowledge and technology management, ESCWA, under subprogramme 4, will expand the realization of an inclusive, people-centred and development-oriented information society in the region. Where sustainable infrastructure is concerned, ESCWA, under subprogramme 3, will enhance regional integration of member countries by developing and harmonizing physical and legislative infrastructure in the region, including frameworks associated with the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq. As to social and economic policy coordination, ESCWA will promote regionally coordinated social and economic policies, and ensure the implementation of regional economic agreements to realize the potential for intraregional integration and build a harmonized policy framework for the legislation required to govern e-commerce, e-service, e-trade and e-business between Arab countries. This effort will require integrated work under subprogrammes 3 and 4, including the full contribution of the ESCWA Technology Centre. Under subprogramme 1, ESCWA will work to enhance the food, water and energy security of the Arab region for its sustained long-term development and to preserve achievements in poverty alleviation and human development by promoting regional cooperation on shared water resources, energy networks and land management. Through subprogramme 6, it will also promote regional integration by supporting the adoption of gender-sensitive policies and legislation in order to attain equal rights of women in line with international conventions, conferences and internationally agreed development goals.

19.15 Under the good governance and resilience strategic pillar, ESCWA will strengthen member countries' capacity to build engagement between Governments and their citizens, to identify and respond to potential conflict and other vulnerabilities, and to formulate resilience measures to mitigate the negative impacts of such conflicts and other vulnerabilities. To accomplish these objectives, ESCWA will focus on four priority areas: participation and citizenship; social and economic impacts of conflict and occupation; institutional development; and resilience to natural and human-made crises.

19.16 Through its work on participation and citizenship, ESCWA will encourage the adoption and implementation of participatory and inclusive governance and national development policies based on the equal participation of men and women,

with a particular focus on enhancing the position of women in democratic decision-making processes, in addition to ensuring the participation of civil society and other stakeholders in public policy formulation, implementation and monitoring. This priority area will require integrated workplans under subprogrammes 2, 6 and 7.

19.17 Under the priority area on social and economic impacts of conflict and occupation, ESCWA, under subprogramme 7, will support member countries in mitigating the negative impact of occupation, the ramifications of conflict and their spillover effects on human development in the region, particularly on Arab least developed countries. Under the priority area on institutional development, through integrated work under subprogrammes 3, 6 and 7, ESCWA will support public institutions to create an enabling environment for development, pre-empting conflicts and achieving reconciliation and peace through nationally led and owned good governance practices for the implementation of enhanced macroeconomic management; promoting efficient, transparent and accountable civil service including effective public service delivery as tools to pre-empt conflicts and achieve reconciliation and peace; and using institutional development and good governance structures to promote the adoption of legislation and national action plans to combat gender-based violence.

19.18 Through its work on resilience to natural and human-made crises, ESCWA, through subprogramme 1, will support member countries in building their capacity to absorb and respond to the impact of crises through the development of sound policies, including the creation of subregional and regional mechanisms to ensure a coordinated response to climate change and natural crises.

19.19 The ESCWA programme of work will be guided by three cross-cutting issues — partnerships, knowledge management and gender — on which the workplan of subprogramme 5 (statistics for evidence-based policymaking) is focused.

19.20 Taking into account the new strategic pillars and the relatively limited human and financial resources, it becomes vital to develop holistic strategic partnerships with other regional stakeholders, which in turn should contribute to the fulfilment of the objectives of ESCWA.

19.21 ESCWA is reviewing each priority area to identify the relevant actors from United Nations bodies, civil society organizations and the private sector, among others, with which it would be strategically opportune to forge relationships in order to maximize success in implementing the workplans. Identification of the activities and the implementing partners will provide a framework for comprehensive memorandums of understanding to take advantage of the opportunities and benefits that these arrangements will bring for ESCWA and the region as a whole. Principally, ESCWA will complete a five-year comprehensive agreement with the League of Arab States that will cement the relationship between the two organizations and ensure that the synergies and complementarities between them are fully exploited.

19.22 ESCWA will focus in particular on promoting South-South cooperation between its member countries and with other developing countries through the regional commissions as a catalyst for improving capacity-development efforts and to identify opportunities for intraregional activities.

19.23 The nature of ESCWA work demands that it become a leading knowledge-based institution, meaning that knowledge-sharing requires greater attention throughout its work. This applies to the internal processes of the ESCWA secretariat,

the Commission's relationship to member countries and partners and the work of subsidiary intergovernmental, technical and expert bodies.

19.24 The convening power of ESCWA has significant potential to disseminate knowledge that has yet to be fully tapped. A core role of intergovernmental processes is to facilitate exchange of experience between experts from countries in the region and accelerate the development of technical skills, decision-making, governance, management and implementation of new policy options through peer-to-peer learning. In particular, ESCWA will focus on follow-up to technical and expert meetings, workshops and seminars, maintaining and moderating networks of experts and stimulating a productive exchange of information.

19.25 Through subprogramme 5, on statistics for evidence-based analysis and decision-making, ESCWA has taken the lead in coordinating statistical information in the region. Work under this subprogramme will improve the provision of statistical data about member countries through collection and dissemination of official statistics and indicators to support informed policymaking; enhance national capacity in line with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics to produce relevant, timely, reliable and comparable official statistics; and strengthen a regional statistical system in support of regional integration.

19.26 ESCWA will use its leadership of the Task Force on Statistical Coordination of the Regional Coordination Mechanism to promote coordination of statistics between national and international organizations active in the region. It has also put in place an internal coordination mechanism for statistical activities.

19.27 Gender is a cross-cutting issue deeply influencing all ESCWA work. Men and women have different needs and priorities in the development process, just as the way in which they gain access to and control resources differs. Accordingly, each ESCWA intervention must have a gender perspective.

19.28 ESCWA work in gender mainstreaming has two components. The first is to assist member countries to promote gender equality and the advancement of women, and the second to integrate a gender perspective into the ESCWA programme of work. ESCWA will continue to lead United Nations entities in the implementation of the action plan for the implementation of the United Nations system-wide policy on gender equality and the empowerment of women endorsed by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination in October 2006 (CEB/2006/2 and Corr.1, annex).

19.29 ESCWA will continue to carry out analytical and normative work and also provide technical cooperation support in line with its member countries' needs. It will facilitate exchange of knowledge and information by providing a forum for networking and multilateral dialogue on regional and global development issues, while giving due consideration to the advancement of South-South cooperation. Special attention will be paid to the promotion of gender mainstreaming in ESCWA in the light of the programme of work of the Organization, in accordance with the global priorities of the United Nations. Similarly, lessons learned from evaluation exercises will be consolidated to improve the design and performance of programmes, in view of the United Nations commitment to encouraging and supporting evaluation practices to enhance learning and accountability.

19.30 It is anticipated that the consultations that have taken place between the thematic clusters of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs will

contribute to enhanced coordination and collaboration in major common work areas of the Secretariat dealing with economic and social development. Moreover, through its leadership of the Regional Coordination Mechanism, ESCWA will facilitate consultation processes among the United Nations entities concerned, leading to the identification of priority areas where collective support for development interventions could be provided, whether at the level of the ESCWA region or in the broader context of the Arab region.

19.31 The indicators of achievement used below are intended to measure direct impacts of ESCWA work and to show a link between the implementation of the ESCWA work programme and the expected accomplishments.

## Subprogramme 1
## Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development

**Objective of the Organization**: To achieve sustainable development in the region through integrated natural resource management

| Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat | Indicators of achievement |
|---|---|
| (a) Strengthened national capacity to develop and increase inclusive and equitable socio-economic opportunities by increasing the productivity of small and medium-sized enterprises for employment creation and economic diversification | (a) (i) Increased number of measures on small and medium-sized enterprises formulated by line ministries, chambers of commerce and other actors, to increase the productivity of small and medium-sized enterprises<br>(ii) Increased number of institutions involved in creating opportunities for generating employment through small and medium-sized enterprises |
| (b) Enhanced capacities of member countries to develop and implement national, subregional and regional policies, strategies and action plans for the sustainable management of water, energy and land | (b) (i) Increased number of policies, plans and strategies adopted by relevant ministries in member countries addressing water, energy and land needs<br>(ii) Increased number of interventions to improve access to and efficiency of water and energy services |
| (c) Enhanced food, water and energy security of the Arab region to sustain long-term development and preserve the achievements in poverty alleviation and human development by promoting regional cooperation on shared water resources, energy networks and land management | (c) Increased number of intergovernmental recommendations adopted on regional cooperative initiatives related to water, energy and food security |

| | |
|---|---|
| (d) Enhanced resilience and crisis management capacities of member countries to absorb and respond to the impact of crises, including the development of subregional and regional mechanisms, for a coordinated response to climate change and natural crises | (d) Increased number of recommendations adopted by member countries that aim at coordinated responses to climate change and natural crises |

**Strategy**

19.32 The responsibility for implementing the subprogramme lies with the Sustainable Development and Productivity Division. The interrelated and complex challenges facing the region and the current social and political tensions have wide-ranging consequences that provide an appropriate opportunity for concerted efforts to strengthen the interlinkages between the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development and to galvanize action at the national and regional levels. The regional challenges include increasing population pressure and the related rise in demand for water and energy services; rising unemployment, particularly among young people; unsustainable production and consumption patterns; the need to ensure water, energy and food security; the disparity between urban and rural development; low agricultural productivity; traffic congestion and unsustainable transport systems; and climate change and its impact on water resources, desertification and land management.

19.33 To enhance the impact of ESCWA work and improve its services to the countries of the region, work under the subprogramme will focus on providing support to such countries to tackle the above-mentioned challenges and to move towards a more sustainable development pathway.

19.34 The subprogramme will undertake or continue:

(a) To advocate and raise awareness of the countries of the region of global commitments, particularly the Millennium Development Goals, and the outcomes of major United Nations conferences on sustainable development, especially the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in 2012, and to monitor and support follow-up actions;

(b) To serve as a forum for promoting policy dialogue on sustainable development issues and priorities for forging regional positions and perspectives based on the exchange of information, lessons learned and best practices;

(c) To support member countries in their efforts to improve the efficient use of renewable and non-renewable water, energy and land resources, including the application of appropriate environment-friendly technologies, and to encourage the integrated management of water, energy and land to achieve sustainable development;

(d) To facilitate regional cooperation and coordination on water, energy and land as the means to enhance food, water and energy security;

(e) To contribute to national and regional capacity-building, especially on water, energy (including renewable energy) and agricultural issues;

(f) To support the development of national or regional mechanisms for the integration of the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development;

(g) To support the development of national or regional mechanisms to deal with the impacts of climate change;

(h) To support member countries' efforts to strengthen small and medium-sized enterprises with a view to job creation and economic diversification.

19.35 This will be achieved by providing services to intergovernmental bodies; conducting high-quality research and analytical work; organizing intergovernmental and expert meetings; providing advisory services; implementing field projects, including extrabudgetary and United Nations Development Account projects; building capacity through workshops and other technical assistance activities; and issuing technical materials to raise awareness of key sustainable development issues and challenges targeted for global and regional action in 2014 and 2015.

19.36 Work under the subprogramme will strive to maximize synergies through collaboration with United Nations agencies and organizations, including the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and through participation in the United Nations inter-agency coordination mechanisms on water resources and energy (UN-Water and UN-Energy), and the Regional Coordination Mechanism. It will continue to cooperate with the League of Arab States and its associated bodies, particularly the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment, the Arab Ministerial Council for Water and the Arab Ministerial Council for Electricity, in addition to other regional mechanisms for coordination on sustainable development.

## Subprogramme 2
## Social development

**Objective of the Organization**: To enhance the capacity of member countries to adopt social policies and institutional mechanisms that lead to an equitable and inclusive process of socio-economic development, taking into consideration regional specificities

| Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat | Indicators of achievement |
|---|---|
| (a) Strengthened national capacity to develop a rights-based social policy that promotes social integration, social protection, the provision of adequate social services and employment generation | (a) (i) Increased number of new policies, programmes and measures developed that aim at expanding social protection, improving the provision of social services and generating employment |
| | (ii) Increased number of policies and programmes that are formulated or enhanced to ensure the integration of key socio-demographic groups, including youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and migrants in national development processes |

| | |
|---|---|
| (b) Enhanced capacity of member countries to adopt social development policies and programmes based on the participation of the civil society and other stakeholders, in public policy formulation, implementation and monitoring | (b) (i) Increased number of instances in which Governments, civil society organizations and other stakeholders participate in developing, implementing and monitoring social development policies and programmes<br><br>(ii) Increased number of committees and joint ventures between representatives of Governments, civil society organizations and other stakeholders entrusted with the formulation, implementation and monitoring of social policies and programmes |

**Strategy**

19.37 The responsibility for implementing the subprogramme lies with the Social Development Division. The subprogramme will build on the experience gained in previous bienniums and will continue to advocate equity, social justice, inclusion and participation as the guiding social development principles.

19.38 During the biennium 2014-2015, particular attention will be paid to promoting social development through a rights-based approach to social policy and protection; social integration; special focus on key socio-demographic groups, such as youth, older persons and migrants; employment generation; and participatory development.

19.39 Inclusive societies that successfully integrate all social groups into the national development process are better equipped to maintain social cohesion during times of crisis and to avoid socio-political upheaval. In this context, there is an urgent need to promote social integration, employment generation and civil society participation in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of public policies, involving three types of activities: the identification of citizens' priorities over alternative social development outcomes; the formulation and implementation of policies based on those priorities; and the monitoring of the impact of such policies on the lives of those affected.

19.40 Work under the subprogramme will seek to build member countries' capacity to mainstream social equity concerns in their public policymaking and will assist them to implement internationally agreed plans of action and recommendations, including the Millennium Development Goals in the run-up to the 2015 target date for their implementation.

19.41 Both normative and technical cooperation activities will be carried out under the subprogramme. The former will include research into and analysis of social development issues, the preparation of substantive reports and the organization of expert group meetings, while the latter will include the provision of advisory services, the organization of capacity-development workshops and the launching of field projects, notably in the areas of youth development, social protection and civil society participation.

19.42 Partnerships will be further strengthened with other regional commissions, United Nations entities, international and regional organizations and civil society

groups. In the process, the subprogramme will act as a regional platform for exchanging experiences, good practices and lessons learned in the field of social development, and for increased interaction between Western Asia and other regions.

## Subprogramme 3
## Economic development and integration

**Objective of the Organization**: To achieve a decent standard of living through sustained economic development and integration

| Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat | Indicators of achievement |
|---|---|
| (a) Strengthened national capacity to develop inclusive and equitable socio-economic conditions through pro-poor growth policies focused on employment generation and inclusive and equitable financial policies | (a) (i) Increased number of member countries adopting an inclusive and fair macroeconomic framework<br>(ii) Increased number of policies and measures adopted by member countries to implement the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development |
| (b) Enhanced capacity of member countries to develop knowledge-based economies with a view to sustainable economic growth and poverty alleviation through effective macroeconomics as well as promoting economic diversification and competitiveness for decent job creation | (b) Increased number of member countries that request and receive ESCWA support in developing national strategies for knowledge-based economies and competitiveness |
| (c) Enhanced capacity of member countries to coordinate their social and economic policies, and ensure the implementation of regional economic agreements to achieve the potential for intraregional integration | (c) (i) Increased number of agreements between member countries on macroeconomic policy coordination<br>(ii) Increased number of member countries implementing regional agreements |
| (d) Enhanced regional integration of member countries by developing and harmonizing the physical and legislative regional infrastructure | (d) Increased number of countries adopting transport agreements and/or establishing national transport and trade committees |
| (e) Enhanced capacity of public institutions to create an enabling environment for development through nationally led and owned good governance practices for the implementation of enhanced macroeconomic management with the full engagement of civil society organizations and the private sector | (e) Increased number of member countries requesting and receiving ESCWA support in governance reforms in line with macroeconomic changes |

**Strategy**

19.43 The responsibility for implementing this subprogramme lies with the Economic Development and Globalization Division. The Millennium Development Goals, the revised Damascus Declaration on responding to the International Financial Crisis in the ESCWA Region, the Monterrey Consensus, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, the Doha Development Agenda, the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq, and the relevant General Assembly and ESCWA resolutions provide the legislative authority for the subprogramme.

19.44 During the biennium 2014-2015, particular attention will be paid to promoting economic development by taking an inclusive and equitable approach to fostering economic development, and developing sound development policies and strategies taking the region's specific challenges into account; promoting regional integration to benefit all people in the region; implementing innovative approaches to financing for development; and working towards enhancing economic diversification to increase resilience to shocks.

19.45 Inclusive economic growth and more equitable distribution of income, being at the core of demands by the region's population, will be the main guiding principles of the subprogramme in 2014-2015. In this context, there is an urgent need to promote and support the implementation of effective regional economic development policies and strategies to accelerate the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, such as the Millennium Development Goals, by 2015. Efforts to promote regional integration include integrated transport systems, intraregional and international trade, implementation and monitoring of the Monterrey Consensus and follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development, taking into consideration the consequences of the global economic and financial crisis. To achieve the objectives, various types of activities will be used: development and use of economic analysis and forecasting tools such as macroeconomic models, which in turn enable sound policy recommendations based on short-term and long-term projections; sound macroeconomic and microeconomic research leading to reference and flagship publications, such as the proposed Arab economic outlook report; and technical assistance and capacity-building targeting member countries' individual needs, such as monitoring policy impact on the economic development.

19.46 The main objective and the five major expected accomplishments of the subprogramme will be achieved by developing and delivering innovative research, multidisciplinary integrated policy advice, capacity-building and support implementation, in addition to monitoring and evaluation.

19.47 Work under the subprogramme will be conducted in close cooperation with all relevant stakeholders in member countries, such as Governments, development partners (including international financial institutions), civil society organizations and the private sector. Existing and emerging partnerships with other regional commissions, United Nations entities, international and regional organizations and civil society groups will be further strengthened.

## Subprogramme 4
## Information and communications technology for regional integration

**Objective of the Organization**: To accelerate bridging the digital divide and building, by member countries, an inclusive, people-centred and development-oriented information society and knowledge-based economy for sustainable economic growth and poverty alleviation

| Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat | Indicators of achievement |
|---|---|
| (a) Enhanced capacity of member countries to develop and benefit from knowledge-based economies for sustainable economic growth and poverty alleviation | (a) (i) Increased number of member countries implementing information and communications technology (ICT) policies, strategies and plans of action that emphasize the development of knowledge-based economies |
| | (ii) Increased number of member countries showing progress in the implementation of internationally agreed indicators on knowledge-based economy |
| | (iii) Increased number of partnerships and technology-based projects and programmes launched and implemented in the region by the ESCWA Technology Centre |
| (b) Enhanced competitiveness of the ICT sector in the region on the production and service delivery levels with special focus on partnerships, research, development and innovation | (b) (i) Increased number of regional initiatives for the development of information and knowledge societies through partnerships, research development and innovation, and information and communications technology applications |
| | (ii) Increased number of member countries using the Core ICT Indicators developed by the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development to measure the information society |
| (c) Enhanced capacities of member countries to ensure the coordination of their socio-economic policies, fully achieve the potential for intraregional integration and build a harmonized policy framework for Internet governance and the legislation required | (c) (i) Increased number of member countries joining regional or global initiatives or frameworks related to Internet governance and/or cybersafety |
| | (ii) Increased number of policymaking and legislative initiatives encouraging the use of cyberspace and e-commerce or e-services in the ESCWA region |

**Strategy**

19.48 The responsibility for implementing the subprogramme lies with the Information and Communication Technology Division. Regional and global changes are taking place at the economic, social, cultural and political levels, with information and knowledge playing a major role in the move towards the information and knowledge society. The accelerating development in knowledge during the past decades has modified the principles of economic growth with the move towards a knowledge-based economy affecting all sectors of the economy. Countries' capacity to adapt to changes in technology and knowledge varies significantly. With continued monitoring of activities pertaining to the World Summit on the Information Society Geneva Plan of Action and Tunis Agenda for the Information Society and the efforts made to implement the ESCWA Regional Plan of Action for Building the Information Society, in harmonization with the Arab Information and Communications Technology Strategy of the League of Arab States, work under the subprogramme will strive to adapt the Summit outcomes better to serve the region and fine-tune plans of action to build an inclusive, people-centred information society based on productive national information and communications technology sectors.

19.49 Work under the subprogramme, to meet member countries' needs, will consist of performing analytical studies, convening meetings and providing advisory services to support that endeavour, acting as a catalyst for changes in policymaking in member countries and promoting the adoption of a more comprehensive set of information and communications technology measurements and indicators that will help strategic decision-making to identify priority areas of policy action and measure the impact of information and communications technology on socio-economic development. It will also involve assessing and revising plans of action based on feedback from ESCWA member countries, monitoring progress, evaluating impacts and benchmarking national development with other countries based on international indices, with a view to improving the productivity and competitiveness of the information and communications technology sector in the region towards building a knowledge-based economy.

19.50 To enhance national capacity (in particular in terms of human resources development) and to take advantage of the digital opportunities pertaining to socio-economic development in the region, field projects will incorporate a social dimension through the active involvement of local communities, with a focus on employment of young people and the empowerment of women, so as to build a people-centred and development-oriented information and knowledge society.

19.51 Work under the subprogramme will be focused on promoting an enabling environment and harnessing the development of thematic applications of information and communications technology, including e-services, e-government, digital content in Arabic and social media. In addition, emphasis will be laid on leveraging information and communications technology for the development of knowledge-based economies in the region.

19.52 The ESCWA Technology Centre will assist ESCWA member countries and public and private organizations to acquire the tools and capabilities necessary to spark socio-economic development. This will permit the attainment of technological parity with other countries and regions and result in member countries' economies relying more on scientific and technological knowledge by strengthening their capacity to develop and manage national innovation systems; to develop, transfer,

adapt and apply technology; to improve the terms of technology transfer; and to identify and promote the development and transfer of technologies relevant to the region. In doing so, the Centre will use the resources and know-how available in other ESCWA divisions and centres and provide for large-scale networking efforts.

19.53 Work under the subprogramme will enhance regional collaboration and partnerships in activities that will contribute to efforts aimed at harnessing research and development in science and technology, particularly information and communications technology, for socio-economic development. In the same context, work will continue with regional and global partners to enhance integrating infrastructure, regional backbones and broadband strategies for more affordable technology access throughout the region.

## Subprogramme 5
## Statistics for evidence-based policymaking

**Objective of the Organization**: To enhance the regional statistical system through statistical capacity development of member countries, in order to produce comparable, reliable, impartial and relevant national data for evidence-based policymaking and research

| Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat | Indicators of achievement |
|---|---|
| (a) Improved provision of statistical data about member countries through collection and dissemination of official statistics and indicators | (a) (i) Increased number of member countries that provide at least 60 per cent of core socio-economic indicators<br>(ii) Increased number of database queries to online ESCWA statistical databases |
| (b) Improved national capacity for official statistics of member countries in line with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics | (b) Increased number of member countries adopting new or revised international statistical standards, including the System of National Accounts, foundational socio-economic classifications and compliance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics |
| (c) Strengthened regional statistical system in support of regional integration, with an active coordination among major players, including regional and international organizations, and a more active participation by member countries | (c) (i) Increased number of joint statistical capacity-building activities that are coordinated with regional partners<br>(ii) Increased number of tangible outputs of statistical coordination (harmonized databases, joint questionnaires, joint data products) produced in the region |

### Strategy

19.54 The responsibility for implementing the subprogramme lies with the Statistics Division. There is a continued need to align the production and dissemination of statistics in the region with emerging social changes caused by the latest developments in the Arab region, improving the relevance and comparability

of statistics at the regional level in social, economic and cross-cutting issues. Addressing those challenges will strengthen the role of statistics in evidence-based policymaking and in monitoring and evaluating the impact of development policies.

19.55 ESCWA will seek partnerships with organizations within and outside the United Nations that are active in statistical work in the region. It will coordinate statistical capacity development so as to achieve higher efficiency, and will share data and harmonize questionnaires so as to obtain more consistent data, decrease the reporting burden and better use the resources available for data work in each organization. To this end, ESCWA will primarily use the Regional Coordination Mechanism and, in particular, the Task Force on Statistical Coordination. It will also strengthen its internal coordination mechanism for statistical activities.

19.56 During the biennium 2014-2015, work under the subprogramme will concentrate on three main roles: collection and dissemination of data, statistical capacity development, and coordination of statistical activities with regional and international players in official statistics active in the region.

19.57 The priority areas for data collection, processing and dissemination include foundational demographic, social, economic and sectoral statistics that form the basis of official statistics. Data collection will focus on gathering data directly from member countries and on sharing them with other partners active in statistical work in the region. Due attention will be paid to communicating statistics to the media and the public.

19.58 Statistics about the region can be improved only when the methodological and quality issues are tackled at the source: national statistical offices and other national producers of official statistics. As statistical capacity development at the national level is at the core of efforts for better coverage, relevance, timeliness and comparability of data, efforts in this regard will focus on identifying gaps and discrepancies and undertaking capacity-development programmes. Work under the subprogramme will advocate the importance of full adherence to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, especially those dealing with the importance of impartiality of official statistics and their availability to the public; the use of appropriate methods and procedures for the collection, processing, storage and presentation of statistical data; and the presentation of information on sources and methods according to internationally agreed standards.

19.59 ESCWA will take an active role in ensuring that major players in official statistics coordinate their activities in the region. The quality of statistical data, particularly in terms of consistency, timeliness and international comparability, is of primary concern to all producers and users of statistics. In this regard, it is important to ensure that reporting burdens on member countries are minimized and that data are shared among international organizations to the extent possible. To this end, ESCWA will coordinate statistics among national and international organizations active in the region with the above objectives in mind, while respecting each organization's needs and specifics.

19.60 To accomplish this strategy, activities under the subprogramme will concentrate on efforts to act as a centre of excellence for and a forum to exchange views on statistical issues for member countries, and focus on training at the national, subregional and regional levels. Work will also be carried out, in close and/or direct cooperation and coordination with professional staff in national

statistical offices of member countries, on data quality assurance and the implementation of international classifications and recommendations. Efforts will also focus on responding to requests for technical assistance from member countries; assisting in exchange of expertise between member countries; and building trust with national-level counterparts.

## Subprogramme 6
## Advancement of women

**Objective of the Organization**: To reduce gender imbalances, encourage exchange of lessons learned among member countries and contribute to increased respect for the rights of women in line with international conventions and conferences

| Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat | Indicators of achievement |
|---|---|
| (a) Enhanced capacity of member countries to adopt gender-sensitive policies, legislation and budgets in order to attain equal rights of women | (a) (i) Increased number of strategies, policies and programmes for the advancement of women, designed by national machineries for women, are adopted and implemented at the national level |
| | (ii) Increased number of national machineries for women showing improved reporting on periodical reports submitted to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women |
| (b) Enhanced capacity of member countries to combat gender-based violence through enactment of legislation and development of national action plans | (b) (i) Increased number of national strategies to combat gender-based violence |
| | (ii) Increased amount of legislation enacted to protect women from gender-based violence |
| (c) Enhanced capacity of member countries to adopt and implement participatory governance and national development policies based on the equal participation of individuals, men and women, with a particular focus on enhancing the position of women in democratic decision-making processes | (c) (i) Increased number of national action plans adopting a participatory approach, with special attention to the participation of women |
| | (ii) Increased number of civil society organizations dealing with the advancement of women that participate in public policy formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes |

### Strategy

19.61 The responsibility for implementing the subprogramme lies with the ESCWA Centre for Women. The progress accomplished by member countries towards the advancement of women notwithstanding, the economic participation of women and

their representation at the economic and political decision-making levels continue to be lower than in other regions. Combating violence against women remains a serious challenge in the region, especially in conflict-stricken areas. Moreover, current popular movements represent a risk, as they may result in the reversal of acquired gains in women's rights. There is therefore a need to foster greater participation of civil society, especially young people, in public policy formulation and active dialogue with Governments.

19.62 Building on the experience gained in past bienniums, work under the subprogramme will consist of stepping up efforts to enhance the institutional capacity of national mechanisms and other stakeholders, such as members of parliament, the judiciary, the media and civil society organizations, through regular dissemination of new knowledge on gender issues, the provision of advocacy tools and research methodologies and the development of in-house training, knowledge and skills. The subprogramme will also provide forums in which national mechanisms in the ESCWA and other regions can actively share knowledge and experiences of gender mainstreaming and implementation of international instruments pertaining to women.

19.63 Work under the subprogramme will focus on building the capacity of member countries and other stakeholders to combat gender-based violence through the enactment of special laws to protect women from violence and end impunity for this crime. In line with this endeavour, due attention will be paid to national mechanisms in conflict-stricken countries to address the particular needs of women living in those areas.

19.64 Work will also focus on ensuring that men and women are actively engaged in policy dialogue with Governments. In this context, emphasis will be laid on building the capacity of civil society organizations in public policy formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes through the organization of capacity-building workshops and dissemination of normative and analytical work. The subprogramme will act as a regional forum for joint governmental and non-governmental discussions on gender issues.

19.65 The subprogramme has been active in fostering relationships between Government bodies dealing with the empowerment and advancement of women and civil society organizations by holding meetings to analyse and discuss the situation of women at the regional level. Work will continue closely with other United Nations entities and regional organizations, including the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Development Programme Subregional Resource Facility for Arab States, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the International Labour Organization, the League of Arab States, the Arab Women Organization and the Center for Arab Women Training and Research, in order to consolidate and enhance the impact of development support in the area of the advancement of women in the region.

## Subprogramme 7
## Conflict mitigation and development

**Objective of the Organization**: To mitigate the impact of conflict and its spillover effects on people and development in the ESCWA region through strengthening dialogue, peacebuilding, governance and public sector modernization

| Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat | Indicators of achievement |
|---|---|
| (a) Enhanced capacity of member countries affected by conflict to adopt and implement participatory and inclusive governance and national development policies | (a) (i) Increased number of national State-building initiatives and regulatory frameworks for enhancing national identity and strengthening resilience to conflict |
| | (ii) Increased percentage of participants in forums organized under the subprogramme who acknowledge having benefited from ESCWA activities and recommendations |
| | (iii) Increased number of member countries who seek and receive technical or substantive assistance under the subprogramme for enhancing national identity and citizenship |
| (b) Enhanced capacity of member countries to mitigate the negative impact of occupation, the ramifications of conflict and their spillover effects on human development in the region, particularly on Arab least developed countries | (b) (i) Increased percentage of Government representatives acknowledging that they have benefited from the analysis and policy recommendations contained in the publications under the subprogramme on conflict and its ramifications |
| | (ii) Increased number of policies and measures adopted by member countries to implement decisions made as part of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 |
| | (iii) Increased percentage of participants in forums organized under the subprogramme who acknowledge having benefited from its activities and recommendations |
| (c) Enhanced capacity of public institutions of member countries to create an enabling environment for development, pre-empting conflicts | (c) (i) Increased number of public institutions and civil society organizations applying nationally led and owned good governance practices for strengthening the institutional and organizational capacity of civil services for improved quality of public service delivery |

| | |
|---|---|
| | (ii) Increased percentage of participants in forums organized under the subprogramme who acknowledge having benefited from the activities and recommendations |
| | (iii) Increased number of member countries who seek and receive technical or substantive assistance under the subprogramme for improving quality of public service delivery |

**Strategy**

19.66 The responsibility for implementing the subprogramme lies with the Section for Emerging and Conflict-related Issues. The ESCWA region development process has mostly been characterized by limited, poor-quality indicators of governance and socio-economic development, particularly in conflict-afflicted countries. This has been further exacerbated by rentierism and limited citizen participation in policymaking or decision-making. The events of 2011, however, have indicated a popular will demanding change in developmental governance, including a strong demand for transparency, accountability and participation. ESCWA is increasingly expected to play a role in enhancing member countries' capacity to adopt and implement good governance practices and inclusive approaches. It will aim to enhance peacebuilding and national identity, which will be the implicit outcome of a more effective public sector, accessible to all citizens and catering to national development priorities.

19.67 ESCWA assistance to member countries in enhancing their capacity to mitigate the negative impact of conflict, including tension between communities, the lack of proper resource distribution and limited participation, will be translated through the provision of policies and programmes that aim to strengthen State institutions to overcome the adverse effects of conflict and lead national reconciliation processes.

19.68 To achieve its expected accomplishments under the good governance and resilience strategic pillar, work under the subprogramme will focus on three main areas: the promotion of peacebuilding and inclusive governance; the identification and analysis of trends and suggestion of mitigation measures and increasing awareness; and institutional development and civil service advancement with the aim of improving service delivery.

19.69 The promotion of peacebuilding and inclusive governance will be achieved by identifying and promoting inclusive governance practices within State and non-State entities to secure citizen engagement in decision-making processes, and enhancing resource management capacities between tiers of government with the aim of securing a more efficient and equitable distribution of services. To this end, work under the subprogramme will be aimed at engaging relevant stakeholders (Governments, civil society organizations, academic institutions and citizens) through meetings and staff missions so that their perspective and knowledge can be considered and included when formulating research, policy recommendations and capacity-building programmes.

19.70 The identification and analysis of trends and suggestion of mitigation measures and increasing awareness will be realized through the provision of cutting-edge research into the root causes of conflict, its impact and spillover effects. The subprogramme will also provide, through its regular annual publication, an analysis of the socio-economic impact of the Israeli occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and will enhance awareness of the negative repercussions of such occupation. This focus area will be supported by studies, reports based on field assessments and analysis of trends.

19.71 Institutional development and civil service advancement with the aim of improving service delivery will be realized through capacity development and knowledge-building in the form of meetings, advisory services and staff missions, and research into institutional development strategies to strengthen public sector performance, in addition to the provision of high-quality policy options and sharing of best practices. To this end, work under the subprogramme will focus on promoting the establishment of mechanisms for exchange of information and best practices among decision makers throughout the region, particularly on the topics of public service delivery, support for the region's least developed countries and good governance.

## Legislative mandates

*General Assembly resolutions*

| | |
|---|---|
| 55/2 | United Nations Millennium Declaration |
| 57/270 A and B | Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields |
| 60/1 | 2005 World Summit Outcome |
| 61/16 | Strengthening of the Economic and Social Council |
| 62/208 | Triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations |
| 63/232 | Operational activities for development |
| 64/1 | High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation |
| 64/210 | Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence |
| 64/221 | South-South cooperation |
| 64/223 | Towards global partnerships |
| 65/126 | Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States |
| 65/140 | Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference |
| 65/171 | Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries |
| 65/174 | Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) |

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| 65/191 | Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly |
| 65/214 | Human rights and extreme poverty |
| 65/311 | Multilingualism |
| 66/155 | The right to development |

*Economic and Social Council resolutions*

| | |
|---|---|
| 1818 (LV) | Establishment of an economic commission for Western Asia |
| 1985/69 | Amendment of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Western Asia: change of name of the Commission |
| 1998/46 | Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields |
| 2005/50 | The Damascus Declaration and the role of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration |
| 2008/8 | Admission of the Sudan as a member of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia |
| 2008/21 | Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda |
| 2009/29 | Role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, in light of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 61/16 |
| 2010/13 | Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda |
| 2010/22 | Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 62/208 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system |
| 2010/27 | Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 |
| 2010/38 | The need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States |
| 2011/2 | Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its ninth session |
| 2011/5 | The role of the United Nations system in implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women |
| 2011/6 | Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system |

*Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions*

| | |
|---|---|
| 258 (XXIII) | Strengthening technical cooperation in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia |
| 260 (XXIII) | Development and regional cooperation under unstable conditions |
| 261 (XXIII) | Strengthening the cooperation between ESCWA and the League of Arab States in the field of Economic and Social Development |
| 263 (XXIII) | Promoting partnership and resource mobilization |
| 268 (XXIII) | Adoption of the Final Reports of the Subsidiary Bodies of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia |
| 269 (XXIV) | The role of ESCWA in light of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document and the subsequent change process |
| 272 (XXIV) | Youth employment in ESCWA member countries |
| 286 (XXV) | Gender statistics for equality and empowerment |
| 289 (XXV) | Supporting the comprehensive development effort of Yemen |
| 300 (XXVI) | Adoption of session reports of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia |
| 301 (XXVI) | Adoption of the draft strategic framework for the biennium 2012-2013 |

**Subprogramme 1**
**Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development**

*General Assembly resolutions*

| | |
|---|---|
| 57/253 | World Summit on Sustainable Development |
| 63/217 | Natural disasters and vulnerability |
| 63/281 | Climate change and its possible security implications |
| 64/197 | Agricultural technology for development |
| 64/198 | Midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005-2015 |
| 64/201 | United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010-2020) |
| 64/206 | Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy |
| 65/151 | International Year of Sustainable Energy for All |
| 65/152 | Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development |
| 65/153 | Follow-up to the International Year of Sanitation, 2008 |
| 65/154 | International Year of Water Cooperation, 2013 |
| 65/157 | International Strategy for Disaster Reduction |

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| 65/160 | Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa |
| 65/178 | Agriculture development and food security |

*Economic and Social Council resolution*

| | |
|---|---|
| 2006/49 | Outcome of the sixth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests |
| 2009/28 | The role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration on the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development adopted at the high-level segment of the 2008 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in 2008 |

*Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions*

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| 269 (XXIV) | The role of ESCWA in the light of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document and the subsequent changes process |
| 281 (XXV) | Addressing climate change issues in the Arab region |

**Subprogramme 2**
**Social development**

*General Assembly resolutions*

| | |
|---|---|
| 64/154 | Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto |
| 64/166 | Protection of migrants |
| 65/170 | International migration and development |
| 65/186 | Realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities towards 2015 and beyond |
| 65/312 | Outcome document of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding |
| 66/121 | Policies and programmes involving youth |
| 66/122 | Promoting social integration through social inclusion |
| 66/124 | High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities |
| 66/125 | Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly |
| 66/126 | Preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family |
| 66/127 | Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing |

*Economic and Social Council resolutions*

| | |
|---|---|
| 2006/4 | Sustained economic growth for social development, including the eradication of poverty and hunger |
| 2006/15 | Promoting youth employment |
| 2006/16 | Comprehensive and integral international convention to protect and promote the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities |
| 2006/18 | Future organization of the work of the Commission on Social Development |
| 2007/2 | The role of the United Nations System in providing full and productive employment and decent work for all |
| 2008/18 | Promoting full employment and decent work for all |
| 2010/12 | Promoting social integration |
| 2010/13 | Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda |
| 2010/14 | Future implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 |
| 2011/5 | The role of the United Nations system in implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women |
| 2011/27 | Further promotion of equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities and mainstreaming disability in the development agenda |
| 2011/28 | Modalities for the second review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 |

*Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions*

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|---|---|
| 285 (XXV) | Integrated social policy |
| 295 (XXVI) | Guiding Declaration of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on giving greater attention to Youth Policies: An Opportunity for Development |
| 298 (XXVI) | Social development |

**Subprogramme 3**
**Economic development and integration**

*General Assembly resolutions*

| | |
|---|---|
| 64/188 | International trade and development |
| 64/191 | External debt sustainability and development |
| 64/255 | Improving global road safety |
| 65/10 | Sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth for poverty eradication and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals |

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|---|---|
| 65/145 | Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development |
| 65/178 | Agriculture development and food security |

*Economic and Social Council resolutions*

| | |
|---|---|
| 2006/4 | Sustained economic growth for social development, including the eradication of poverty and hunger |
| 2007/36 | United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development |
| 2008/18 | Promoting full employment and decent work for all |
| 2009/30 | A strengthened and more effective intergovernmental inclusive process to carry out the financing for development follow-up |
| 2011/38 | Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development |

*Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions*

| | |
|---|---|
| 270 (XXIV) | Macroeconomic policy for financial stability |
| 279 (XXIV) | Follow-up to implementation of components of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq |
| 290 (XXV) | Call for regional action to accelerate implementation of the Monterrey Consensus in Western Asia |
| 296 (XXVI) | Enhancing public sector institutions and resources to attain national development goals |

**Subprogramme 4**
**Information and communications technology for regional integration**

*General Assembly resolution*

| | |
|---|---|
| 60/252 | World Summit on Information Society |
| 64/130 | Policies and programmes involving youth |
| 64/212 | Science and technology for development |
| 65/141 | Information and communications technologies for development |

*Economic and Social Council resolutions*

| | |
|---|---|
| 2007/8 | Flow of information for the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society |
| 2009/8 | Science and technology for development |
| 2010/5 | Establishment of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia Technology Centre |
| 2011/16 | Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society |

*Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions*

| | |
|---|---|
| 273 (XXIV) | Follow-up to the development of the Information Society in Western Asia |
| 294 (XXVI) | Establishment of the ESCWA technology centre |

**Subprogramme 5**
**Statistics for evidence-based policymaking**

*General Assembly resolutions*

| | |
|---|---|
| 64/137 | Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women |
| 64/139 | Violence against women migrant workers |
| 64/217 | Women in development |
| 65/170 | International migration and development |
| 65/186 | Realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities towards 2015 and beyond |
| 66/127 | Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing |

*Economic and Social Council resolutions*

| | |
|---|---|
| 2006/6 | Strengthening statistical capacity |
| 2011/5 | The role of the United Nations system in implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women |
| 2011/27 | Further promotion of equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities and mainstreaming disability in the development agenda |

*Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions*

| | |
|---|---|
| 276 (XXIV) | Strengthening statistical capacities in the ESCWA region |
| 283 (XXV) | ESCWA member country compliance with international standards for enhancing national statistical systems |
| 287 (XXV) | Strengthening statistical capacities for evidence-based policymaking |
| 295 (XXVI) | Guiding Declaration of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on giving greater attention to Youth Policies: An Opportunity for Development |
| 297 (XXVI) | Arab MDG monitor for societal progress |

**Subprogramme 6**
**Advancement of women**

*General Assembly resolutions*

| | |
|---|---|
| 64/137 | Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women |
| 64/217 | Women in development |
| 66/131 | Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women |
| 66/132 | Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly |

*Economic and Social Council resolutions*

| | |
|---|---|
| 2011/18 | Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women |

*Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions*

| | |
|---|---|
| 278 (XXIV) | Increasing the role of women in decision-making with respect to conflict prevention and peace building |
| 293 (XXVI) | Upgrading the ESCWA Centre for Women to the level of a division and follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the Arab countries after fifteen years: Beijing + 15 |

**Subprogramme 7**
**Conflict mitigation and development**

*General Assembly resolutions*

| | |
|---|---|
| 66/118 | Assistance to the Palestinian people |
| 66/146 | The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination |
| 66/225 | Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources |

*Economic and Social Council resolutions*

| | |
|---|---|
| 2011/2 | Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its ninth session |
| 2011/22 | Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its tenth session |
| 2011/41 | Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan |

*Security Council resolutions*

| | |
|---|---|
| 1645 (2005) | Post-conflict peacebuilding |
| 1947 (2010) | Post-conflict peacebuilding |

*Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions*

| | |
|---|---|
| 271 (XXIV) | Strengthening the role of ESCWA in addressing the impact of conflict and instability within the context of social and economic development |
| 282 (XXV) | Mitigating the impact on development of conflict, occupation and instability in ESCWA member countries |
| 292 (XXVI) | Upgrading the Section for Emerging and Conflict-Related Issues to the level of a division and establishing a governmental committee on emerging issues and development in conflict settings |
| 296 (XXVI) | Enhancing public sector institutions and resources to attain national development goals |